

Plaintiff further states that he has been bedridden for over two years and that his doctor “does not feel [that Plaintiff] could make the trip [from Raleigh, North Carolina] without having health issues.” [Id.]. Plaintiff also states that he cannot sit in a chair for more than 30 minutes at a time. [Id. at 2].

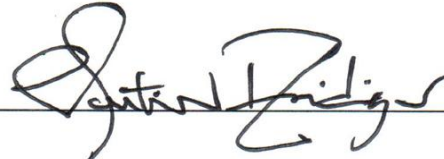
The Court will, therefore, again order Defendants to notify the Court within 14 days whether they consent to judicial settlement conference in this matter pursuant to Local Civil Rule 16.3(d). **Defendants shall respond within 14 days regardless of whether they so consent.** Defendants are strongly encouraged to consent to the conduct of a judicial settlement conference in this matter, not only because of Plaintiff’s medical condition and the difficulties inherent in conducting a trial, but also because of the current Covid-19 pandemic and the general promotion of judicial economy. Furthermore, as Defendants are aware, participation in a judicial settlement conference does not foreclose a trial; it merely provides the parties additional opportunity to settle this case without a trial.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Defendants shall notify the Court within fourteen (14) days of this Order whether they consent to a judicial settlement conference in this matter.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Signed: December 7, 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin Reidinger", written over a horizontal line.

Martin Reidinger
Chief United States District Judge

